

Carter on the fourth anniversary of his death from cancer, which occurred on July 31, 1995, at the age of 34. Mr. Carter was highly esteemed as a federal worker of great integrity while employed as one of the groundskeepers of the U.S. Capitol. He subsequently was a successful Thoroughbred groom and a respected clocker for "The Daily Racing Form," positions which he greatly enjoyed.

As kind and generous as he was physically powerful, Mr. Carter was quick to help anyone in need, without thought of repayment. This outstanding gentleman regularly helped the frail elderly and the widowed with his strenuous manual labor, and he was known to drive 80 miles to obtain a second veterinarian's diagnosis regarding a dying horse, in order to try to save the animal's life.

A typical example of Mr. Carter's warm compassion was evidenced when he once offered to adopt a profoundly retarded boy and to give him a safe, affectionate home when it was no longer possible for the child's loving family to keep the boy with them.

When Mr. Carter learned that he was dying of inoperable cancer, he said quietly, "The Lord gave me 29 good years, and I'm thankful. I'm going to die of cancer, but I'm not going to let it defeat me."

Mr. Carter was a credit to his upbringing who died undefeated by the terrible pain which he endured in his last years. The loving son of Bill and Kathy Carter of Brandywine, Maryland, Mr. Carter died with the same dignity and compassion with which he lived. His calm courage and optimism remain an inspiration to those who knew him.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO—SHAWN AND KEVIN KELLY

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my Report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others.

I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today I would like to recognize Kevin and Shawn Kelly of Wilson Borough as Lehigh Valley Heroes. These young boys have truly made a difference in their community.

Kevin, 8, and his brother Shawn, 11, recently extinguished a fire that threatened a nearby home in their community. Recently, they were playing outside when they noticed smoke coming from a grassy area near their neighbor's home. Kevin and Shawn reacted instantly to douse the small fire with water and as a result saved a neighbor's home.

These brave young boys made a difference in Wilson Borough and therefore they are Lehigh Valley Heroes in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

THE AMERICAN MILITARY HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue of vital importance to our men and women in uniform.

Since the end of the Cold War, the Army and Air Force have been reduced by 45 percent, the Navy by 36 percent, and the Marine Corps by 12 percent.

At the same time, our military operations commitments around the world have increased by 300 percent.

The Army alone has participated in 33 separate deployments since 1992, and has troops in over 70 nations.

Our military readiness is stretched thin, our reserves of critical missiles and spare parts have eroded, and our military's quality of life is diminishing.

Retention rates are reaching historic lows and aircraft accidents are climbing.

For too long we have been asking our military to do more with less.

In recent years, this Congress has taken many steps to reverse these trends and provide adequate training and equipment for our Armed Forces personnel. We must continue to do more.

Despite these difficulties, our men and women remain the premier military in the world.

Their devotion and commitment to serve is without question.

Time and again, they risk their lives in the defense of our nation and our interests around the world.

Without their selfless dedication, our nation would not be the great place it remains today.

As such, we in Congress and as a nation, have a responsibility to those military personnel and their families.

We owe them the strongest commitment to their safety and well being we can provide.

However, I am concerned our government may be violating that very principle.

Two years ago the Secretary of Defense announced plans to implement a mandatory anthrax vaccination program for the 2.4 million members of the Armed Forces.

Since that time, I heard from a rapidly growing number of military personnel and family members who believe this vaccine may jeopardize their long-term health and safety as well as that of their families.

The lack of a single, conclusive independent study regarding the long-term health effects of the anthrax vaccine on humans have created additional concerns among our nation's uniformed personnel.

Despite Department of Defense assurances of minimal adverse reactions to the anthrax vaccinations, the standards that the Department uses to determine adverse reactions are insufficient to support their claims.

According to a June 29 article in the San Diego Union-Tribune, Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera acknowledged in a September 1998 memo that the vaccine "involves unusually hazardous risks associated with the potential for adverse reactions in some recipients and the possibility that the desired immunological effect will not be obtained by all recipients."

The article went on to report that the Secretary concluded, there is no certainty that the anthrax used in tests to measure the vaccine's effectiveness "will be sufficiently similar to the pathogen that U.S. forces might encounter" during warfare.

If the Secretary of one of the services raises these concerns, how can we as a nation expect the most junior soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine to accept the vaccine without question?

As a result of the lack of conclusive data on the long-term effects of the anthrax vaccine, many of these military personnel are being forced to make decisions between the safety and security of their families that their dedication and commitment to serving our nation.

In a time when all branches of our military are faced with severe challenges in recruiting and retaining quality military personnel, we should be looking for ways to recruit and retain these men and women.

Instead, over 200 personnel have chosen to resign from the armed services rather than accept the risks associated with a questionable vaccination program.

In one Connecticut Air National Guard Unit alone, eight pilots resigned their commissions because of the mandatory anthrax vaccination. There are growing reports of large numbers of other Guard units whose ranks are shrinking for the same reason.

In my own state of North Carolina, I have heard from numerous active duty and reserve Air Force pilots who have tendered their resignation after many years of service.

However, I am particularly troubled by the recent court-martial of five Marines for their refusal to accept the anthrax vaccination.

As the representative of one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the country, Camp Lejeune, I have learned how much they value their creed: "Corps, God, and then Country."

For the Marines, it is not just a saying; it is a way of life.

Yet, because of the great uncertainty surrounding the anthrax vaccine, a growing number of Marines are also choosing to leave their beloved Corps, their livelihood, to ensure their long-term health and that of their families.

All of these matters have led me to a single conclusion. Until the questions surrounding the anthrax vaccine are answered, I cannot in good conscience support the current mandatory Department of Defense vaccination program.

I feel as though I would be failing in my responsibility if I did not take action to protect the troops who willingly sacrifice their own lives in defense of this nation and its citizens.

As a result, today I am introducing the American Military Health Protection Act.

The legislation is simple.

It would make the current Department of Defense Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program voluntary for all members of the Uniformed Services until either:

1. The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new anthrax vaccination for humans; or

2. The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new, reduced shot course for the anthrax vaccination for humans.

It does not eliminate the program or remove the ability of the Department of Defense to provide anthrax vaccinations. It simply ensures before a member of our military is required to take the vaccine, their questions about its safety and long-term effects are answered.